

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Good morning/afternoon members of the Appropriations Committee.

Hello, my name is Christina Paredes and I am a registered voter from Waterbury CT.

I attend the Independence Center in Waterbury, through Mental Health CT. They were able to help me find an apartment after my landlord raised my rent and I had to move out. I was homeless for a while, but now I have a safe place to live. They were helpful during the pandemic and delivered food and food bank items when we were running out of food. Staff made check in calls and we did workshops virtually over the phone. Mending art was done over the phone too.

Please increase the funding over the next few years for the non-profit programs so that we can keep going to our center and have the hours extended.

Thank you for the chance to testify today.